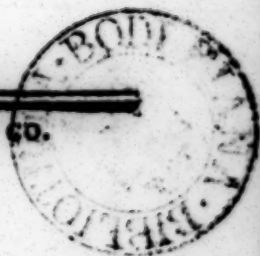


*We have, in and about this place, near 100
of these little Republics-*

Liberty & Equality in Miniature!

THE
CONSTITUTION,
RULES, ORDERS,
AND
REGULATIONS,
OF THE
Farmer Friendly Society,
AT
NEWBRIDGE

ABERDEEN; PRINTED BY J. CHALMERS & CO.
1796.



THE
NOTICE
TO THE
PUBLIC

OF THE
MAYOR
AND
CITY COUNCIL

OF THE
CITY OF
NEW YORK

IN
RELATION
TO
THE
MAYOR
AND
CITY COUNCIL

OF THE
CITY OF
NEW YORK

CONSTITUTION, &c.

THIS Society was instituted upon the 14th day of December 1795, in order to contribute a fund for the mutual relief and maintenance of the members in old age, sickness and infirmity, and for the relief of the widows and children of deceased members as in the course of providence should be in need of their assistance; and the members being now convinced that much advantage may be derived from the institution, have resolved to continue it for the same purpose, under the title of the **FARMER FRIENDLY SOCIETY AT NEWBRIDGE**; and that the following rules and regulations be adopted for the better management thereof, in terms of and agreeable to an act passed in the thirty third year of his present Majesty King George the III^d, entitled an act for the encouragement and relief of Friendly Societies,

I. The business of the society shall always be transacted by the general and committee meetings; the managers in committees are to consist of a Master, Depute Master, Treasurer, Secretary, two Key Masters, two Stewards, four Counsellors, of whom seven shall be a quorum, who shall be elected yearly by a majority of the contributing members present at a general meeting, to be held upon the eleventh day of January, and when it shall fall on a Sunday, the election shall be held the next day; and no member shall refuse to act in any office to which he may be elected, under the penalty of paying Two Shillings and Sixpence sterling to the fund.

II. No

II. No member shall continue in office more than one year at one time, without being duly re-elected by a majority of the contributing members present at the annual general meeting in January; and at every annual election two of the managers must be elected from the members who were not in office for the last year.

III. Besides the yearly meeting to be held on the eleventh day of January, there shall be other three general meetings of this society, held yearly on the following days, viz. on the eleventh day of April, eleventh day of July, and eleventh day of October, and when any of these days happen to be on Sunday, the meeting shall be held the day after, for the purpose of collecting the quarterly contributions of the members; and in order that the quarterly book and minute book may amount to one sum, no contributions shall be received in part, nor at any other time but at these meetings.

IV. The Master shall have power to desire meetings of the committee, or of the whole members, when necessary: the Master shall preside at every meeting, or in his absence the Depute Master; or in the absence of both, after waiting an hour after the time appointed for the meeting, the members present shall have power to elect, for the time being, a member to preside in their room, and the Master for the time and Clerk shall sign all the minutes.

V. That all questions and matters coming before this society shall be determined by a majority of the members present in general or committee meetings; and in case of an equality, the Master shall be entitled to the casting vote; and unless a motion made by any member is seconded and supported by other two members, it shall not be listened to, and no vote shall be taken upon it.

VI. The

VI. The society shall have a Clerk, who shall be elected from among the members of the society by vote, whose business it shall be to attend all the meetings of this society, and to keep clear and distinct records of the business of the society, and regularly minute and enter in the federunt book, all the orders, resolutions, and transactions of the society, which shall be patent to every member; also an Officer, who shall call all the meetings at the desire of the Master, and to attend and obey all their orders in that capacity; and the Clerk and Officer shall be paid such salaries as the society shall think proper; but none of them shall have right to vote in any committee meeting.

VII. The Treasurer shall be obliged, within eight days after he is elected, to grant bond with security to the satisfaction of the committee of managers; and if he fail in granting bond with security as aforesaid, his election shall be void and null, and a general meeting of the members of the society shall be called to elect another in his place.

VIII. That the rights and securities of any heritable subjects belonging to the society, shall be vested in the Treasurer of the society for the time being, and his successors in office, and he is to receive all the entry monies and quarterly contributions, with the interests and every other income for the benefit and behoof of the society, and he is to keep regular accounts of his receipts and expenditures, and is not to pay away any money without an order signed by the Master, or in his absence the Depute Master, and no account exceeding Two Pounds sterling shall be paid away at one time, but by an order from the committee, or of a general meeting of the society.

IX. That the Treasurer's accounts shall be fitted and cleared annually at the general meeting in January, which are to be examined

mined by two men chosen as auditors from the society, and not of the managers, who are to make a report at the annual general meeting concerning the authenticity of the accounts and vouchers.

X. Every person desiring to be admitted a member of this society, must at his admission pay the stipulated sum of entry money specified in the federunt book at the time of his entry, and Six-pence sterling at every quarterly meeting, towards the funds. No person whatever shall be admitted a member if under fifteen, or above forty five years of age, unless where it shall appear to be for the good of the society, in which case a general meeting may admit one a member, although he be above forty five years of age; and every member must be to appearance found in body and mind, of honest report, and recommended by two of the other members, who are to subscribe the admission of him they recommend, attesting him to be a proper person to be admitted a member: but if any two or more members recommend a person as a proper member, who is thereby admitted, then if it can be proven that such recommenders knew him to be subject to any of the above exceptions, he and they shall be struck off, and deprived of all benefit from this society.

XI. That the sons of members of this society, and the first husbands of the daughters of members, shall be admitted members, on paying half the stipulated sum of entry money at the time, and paying up the father's arrears, if there be any due on the books, and clear of the exceptions mentioned in the above rule.

XII. Every member of this society is to observe a decent deportment while at any of the meetings, not to quarrel with any of his brethren, nor to be found drunk and swearing oaths, nor
is

is any member to interrupt another when speaking upon business of the society, nor is any member to leave the hall till the meeting be dissolved by the Master, without asking and obtaining leave of the Master ; and if any member do in the contrary, he shall be fined three pence sterling for each transgression : and all fines are to go to the funds of the society.

XIII. Every member must be five years a contributor to the funds of the society, before he or any of his relations shall be entitled to any benefit ; but it is declared, that if a member die before having contributed five years, his nearest relations, or those having charge of his funeral, shall receive back his quarterly dues which he may have paid, but none of his entry money.

XIV. That after the expiration of five years from the institution of this society, there shall be allowed for benefits as follows, to be distributed at the annual general meeting in January among the following classes, viz. The widows and orphans of members, also members who are sick or disabled from earning a subsistence, and old men who are members above sixty five years of age, and the funeral expence of members ; all having a right to the benefits according to the rules ; every class must share equally and proportionally without any preference whatever. It is to be understood, that after deducting the necessary expences of management, there shall be one third of the free produce yearly allowed for benefit among the above classes, and the other parts to the accumulating stock, until the stock amounts to one Hundred Pounds sterling ; and from one Hundred Pounds two thirds for benefit, until the stock amounts to Two Hundred Pounds sterling ; and from Two Hundred Pounds the benefit shall be three fourths of the produce as above, and so to continue on this last benefit until the stock amounts to Six Hundred Pounds sterling ; then it shall not be allowed to increase further, but the interests, together

together with the entry money of new members, with the quarterly payments, shall be divided among such as shall be entitled to the benefit of the funds.

XV. Every member entitled to and desiring aid from this society, must apply for the same by petition, which must be subscribed by two of the members, or by the minister and two of the elders of the church to which the petitioner belongs, certifying that he is, to the best of their knowledge and information, an object deserving benefit according to the rules; and widows and children must apply likewise by petition; and their benefits are to be paid in full once a year at the annual meeting in January, which is the only meeting for fixing the benefits for each class by a majority of votes. Widows unable to work after six months from the distribution of benefits in January, on petition shall receive one half of last year's benefit, and the balance at next January meeting.

XVI. That if any member within twelve miles of Aberdeen allow himself to run more than four quarters in arrears (even one day) he or his concerns shall only receive half the benefit or aid from the funds, to which members punctual in payments are entitled; but if any member more than twelve miles from Aberdeen, or any member at a greater distance shall be more than six quarters in arrears (even one day) neither he nor any of his connections shall have a right to any benefit from the fund, until his arrears be paid up.

XVII. When a member intitled to full benefit dies, his widow, or such person as takes charge of his funeral, shall receive One Pound sterling of funeral charges from the Treasurer of this society, immediately after the death of the member; and those intitled to half benefit, Ten Shillings sterling for funeral charges;

charges; but the Treasurer is not to pay the above, without a petition properly attested, and signed by the master.

XVIII. That there are to be no weekly benefits from this society, but the forementioned classes are to receive their benefit annually at the January meeting; but any necessitous member who received no benefit at the last January meeting, on being properly recommended, shall receive one fourth of the last settled benefit to the same class he belongs; but if his illness continue for thirteen weeks longer, he shall receive another fourth of said benefit, and so on every thirteen weeks, if his illness still continue, until the general meeting in January; then he shall receive the balance of a full year's benefit to that class he belongs; and if his illness appears still to continue, he shall be put upon superannuate benefit, paid every month, to the amount of what is settled for said benefit.

XIX. If any member, widow, or children, take upon them to apply for and receive benefit, when they did not truly answer the character of those intitled to receive benefit, they, or those who recommended them, must pay back to the Treasurer what money they may so improperly have received; and in case they refuse to do so, upon conviction, they shall immediately be expelled the society, and forfeit all interest therein.

XX. That the widow of a deceased member who has paid his contributions for five years from the time of his entry, and otherwise intitled to benefit, shall have right to petition at the first yearly meeting after the death of her husband, and shall receive benefit in proportion to the time she hath been a widow, and to continue yearly during her good behaviour; but if she marry again, then she shall have no benefit; but if there be any children belonging to her former husband, they shall receive the benefit

to which she had right, until the youngest of them arrive at fourteen years of age.

XXI. Orphans, whose parents are both dead, and whose father had a right to benefit, shall be intitled to the benefit of said class, until the youngest of them arrive at fourteen years of age; but in case of a member dying, and leaving a widow and also children of a former marriage, the widow is to be intitled to receive the benefit, provided she take the charge and properly care for the orphan children; but if she fails to do this, she shall only receive the one half, and the orphan children shall receive the other, until the youngest arrive at said fourteen years of age.

XXII. That no benefit is to be paid before the present year of the petition offered, although they had before a right to petition, and did not; and one petition only is necessary for widows, orphans and old men, which must be entered in the sederunt book, and so to continue on full or half benefit according to the rules.

XXIII. That when there shall few petitions be presented for benefit at the yearly meeting in January, which is the only meeting petitions are received at, (but in case of great necessity as in rule eighteenth, the above petitioners shall receive such a supply as a majority of the members present shall think proper,) what remains of the parts allotted for benefit, shall be reserved for next year; and if necessary, shall be distributed with the next year's benefit; and if not necessary, it shall ly for a reserved stock, to add to, or take from, for benefits only, at pleasure of the members present at the yearly meeting as above; but never to be allowed to rise above Twenty Pounds sterling.

XXIV. That

XXIV. That every member in Scotland belonging to the society, deficient in paying his quarterly dues for more than two years ; every member at a greater distance within England, for more than three years ; and out of England any way abroad for more than five years, shall be struck off from the society's books, and neither they nor their families shall have right to any part of the funds ; and no member is to be struck off except at the yearly general meeting in January, excepting those guilty of flagrant crimes.

XXV. That when there is any of the society's money to lend, the committee of managers shall have power to lend it upon interest. The borrower must find two cautioners to the satisfaction of the committee ; and no less sum than Two Pounds sterling shall be lent at once, except to a member or members, who shall have right to the loan of Twenty Shillings, but none shall be lent for a longer space than twelve months ; and if any of the members of the society have use for the money to be lent, they will be preferred on finding security as above ; and all acts and orders of such committee, shall have the like force and effect, as the acts and orders of the society at any general meeting ; subject nevertheless to the review and controul of the society.

XXVI. That if any member shall happen to be guilty of any crime, or flagrant immorality ; the committee shall make strict enquiry thereanent, and lay the same before the first general meeting of the society, and if it appear evident to the meeting, that such member is guilty, he shall be immediately expelled the society, and forfeit all interest therein ; notice being given to the person accused, if he can be found, at least eight days before such general meeting, that he may have an opportunity of attending and answering for his conduct.

XXVII. That

XXVII. That none of the present regulations shall be altered or repealed, unless with the consent and approbation of three fourths of the members present, at the general yearly meeting in January; and that it shall never be lawful for the existing members, to make any incroachment upon the society's stock, or to apply the money set apart for those entitled to the benefit of the funds, in any other way than as appointed by the present regulations; and it is hereby expressly declared, that if any member shall take upon him to act contrary to these regulations, he will, on conviction thereof, be immediately expelled the society, and forfeit all interest therein.

XXVIII. That in case of any dispute between the society and committee of managers, and any individual member of the society, the matter so in dispute shall and may be referred to such three arbitrators of character, either members of the society, or not members, as shall be named and elected, by a majority of votes at the annual general meeting in January, and whatever award, order, or determination shall be made by said arbitrators, or the major part of them, according to the true purpose and meaning of these rules and regulations, shall be binding and conclusive on all parties.

XXIX. That all the preceding rules and regulations shall be entered in the federunt book of the society, and subscribed by all the present members thereof, and by such as may hereafter be admitted, whereby they shall be strictly bound to the performance of the same, under the penalty of three pounds sterling, and in case any member refuse to subscribe the same on their being approved of, he shall forfeit all interest in the society, and be considered as no longer a member thereof.

The following Rule is added by order of the Justices.

THAT no part of the funds of the society shall, on any pretence whatever, be applied to any other purpose, than the charitable uses for which the society is formed, and the necessary expences of management, under the penalty and forfeiture of a dissolution of the society, or such other penalty and pecuniary mulct or fine, as the Quarter Sessions shall think proper to impose, upon the complaint of the Procurator Fiscal of the Peace, for misconduct or other misdemeanours, or at the instance of any one or more of the members of the society for the time being; and this society is strictly prohibited from entering into any combination for advance or regulation of wages, and from holding any kind of unlawful associations; and ordain the regulations to be printed and disposed of among the members of the society, for information and notification to all concerned, that none may afterwards plead ignorance; and likewise recommend to the society to lodge one printed copy of these regulations with the Clerk of the Peace, to be preserved, with the duplicate on parchment in record.

JOHN GORDON, Preses of Quarter Sessions.
FRAS. GORDON, J. P. Clerk.

At Aberdeen, the Sixth day of June, Seventeen Hundred and Ninety Six Years.

THE adjourned Quarter Sessions of the Peace, whereof John Gordon of Craig was Preses, having considered the foregoing rules and regulations of the Newbridge Farmer Society, and also a report of a committee of the Justices of the Peace, that these rules and regulations are agreeable to the Act of Parliament, 33d GEO. III. for relief and encouragement of Friendly Societies, and not repugnant to any of the laws of the realm;

realm : The Quarter Sessions do therefore hereby sanction, approve, and confirm the foregoing rules and regulations, and allow the same to be put in force and execution, from this date, or as soon as they are subscribed by the Preses of this Session on each page ; and likewise authorise the Clerk of the Peace to sign the same, upon his receiving a duplicate thereof, fairly wrote out on parchment, to be attested by him, and deposited in his custody, and to remain as a part of the rolls and records of the Sessions of the Peace of Aberdeenshire, in terms of the foresaid act of Parliament ; but not to be in force or have effect until the duplicate on parchment is lodged and attested by the Clerk of the Peace : and extracts thereafter to be given out, when called for, on payment of the ordinary dues of extracts.— The preceding rules, orders, and regulations are not to be altered, rescinded, or repealed, nor any addition made thereto, except in the express terms of the third section of the foresaid act of Parliament.

JOHN GORDON, Preses of Quarter Sessions.

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